



"Sheldahl, Mark"
<mark.sheldahl@weyerhaeuser.com>

To: "'opp-docket@epa.gov'" <opp-docket@epamail.epa.gov>
cc:
Subject: Attention: Docket ID No. OPP-2003-0010

02/25/2003 07:26 PM

RE: Request for Public Comment on Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to promulgate "counter regulations" under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). 68 FR 3785, 1/24/03; Docket ID No. OPP-2003-0010

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thankyou for the opportunity to submit comments on the Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) to promulgate "counterpart regulations" under the ESA. I am a forester on private forestland in Washington State. My industry produces sustainable forest products that are used by people all over the world.

I am aware of the many lawsuits that have been filed against the EPA over the past several years dealing with the ESA. In my forestry operations it is critical that I have the ability to control the many pests and weeds that affect the forests that I grow. The main timber species that are the backbone of our region's industry are; Douglas fir, western hemlock, western red cedar, western red alder, and noble fir. The safe and judicious use of pesticides allows us to grow some of the healthiest/most profitable forests in the world. The world's timber markets have become very competitive and U.S. foresters must be able to use whatever tools are available to maintain a competitive U.S. forest products industry. EPA needs to finalize the counterpart regulations and ensure the efficient and timely registration and reregistration of safe and effective forestry products, in addition to the protection of endangered and threatened species and their habitats. Without a reasonable process at the federal level you are leaving me vulnerable to unreasonable regulations and possibly lawsuits.

I urge the EPA to finalize the counterpart regulations and use the best available science in making their decisions on this issue.

Sincerely yours,

Mark Sheldahl
Forester
Longview, WA